

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	INL-00
	DEAE-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00
	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00	OIG-00
	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	MCC-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	TRSE-00	FMP-00
	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2592

INFO WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 001198

DEPT. FOR WHA/PD; IIP/G/WHA DIPASQUALE; AND IIP/T/ES
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OIIP, KPAO, PREL, PGOV, SNAR, ECON, HO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON MEXICAN ELECTIONS, JULY 05, 2006

1. On 07/05 the San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "La Prensa" published an op-ed by Amilcar Santamaria entitled "Elections in Mexico." "U.S. elections are without a doubt a big deal for Honduras because the U.S. is our main political and diplomatic partner, our biggest export and import market, our main source of foreign help, and home for more than 100,000 compatriots that live and work in the U.S."

"Following a close second behind the U.S., Central America is also important to us, but Mexico should be important too."

"Mexico provides us with fuel at flexible prices and supports different cultural, scientific and educational programs in the country through the FTA and the Puebla Panama Plan."

"It is not clear who the next Mexican president will be. Will it be the National Action Party (PAN), inclined towards market economy, or the Mexican Revolution Democratic Party (PRD), oriented to social democracy?"

"The PRD candidate has made it clear that he doesn't share Hugo Chavez' demagoguery and prefers to manage with his own style."

"The election process has been a victory for the Mexican people. It is favorable for us that the giant [Mexico] live in peace and

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conquer problems impeding human development. Fortunately for us that can be contagious."

2. On 7/05 the Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" published an editorial entitled "So close." "In the preliminary count, Felipe Calderon is the winner by a small difference, making these elections the tightest in Mexican history. Triumph is so close."

"The political environment in Mexico is tense, waiting for an announcement by the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), which must weigh the complaints by the parties and validate the electoral result."

"The results in Costa Rica and in Mexico serve as a warning of the closeness in the elections from now on, and the danger that will result if the electoral mechanism goes into crisis because of lack of trust."

"We insist, based upon the lessons learned in our last election, to review every change in the Electoral law so improvisation doesn't happen again."

3. On 07/04 the San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "La Prensa" published an editorial entitled "Mexican Elections." "Six years ago, Mexico greeted euphorically the end of the 'perfect dictatorship.' Now both candidates are proclaiming themselves the winner with the IFE official announcement to be known tomorrow."

"The great expectations that were placed upon Vicente Fox have started to vanish and will leave gaps in history. The people haven't turned their backs from PAN and at the moment there might be a second chance for the conservative party."

"The leftist candidate's demagogy, in the Latin American troubled political framework from Venezuela and Bolivia, has generated suspicion and campaign strategists worked to soften the message so as not to scare investors away."

"If votes were a magic wand, poverty, unemployment, and emigration would have disappeared."

"Electoral democracy owes a great debt to the Latin American people, even greater than our foreign debt, yet politicians show no signs of honoring this debt in the short-run."

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